

8 April 1954

Mr. J. T. Campbell, Head
BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading, Berks., England

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Dear Mr. Campbell:

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Your letter of 29 March arrived shortly after [] return to Washington and a little longer after a letter from [] commenting on his visit to England. Both [] expressed keen enjoyment of the English leg of their trips and they share your view on the fruitfulness of their discussions with you.

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[] mentioned that it might be advisable for us to have a meeting at a time in May which would coincide with the time you expect the Stockholm project to become an issue with respect to funding. It is very good of you to consider our interests in discussing means and methods of continuing the Stockholm monitoring if the BBC Monitoring Service is required to continue the project without additional funds, and we will certainly wish to discuss this and the possibility of alternate arrangements with you. I have asked the FBIS staff to embark on the liaison necessary to establish the usefulness and value of the Stockholm monitoring to U.S. Intelligence Officers without delay. I will, therefore, be in a position to furnish you with the American view either in person or by pouch as the situation may develop.

Other matters that I should like to explore include the feasibility of the exchange of monitors between Caversham and Cyprus for substantial periods of time such as one or two years. Also, I would like to explain our interest in increasing our staff at Caversham by one foreign national Russian monitor to assist in some of the research requirements we here in Washington are constantly levying on our Caversham-based personnel.

Finally, I should like to have further discussions on means and methods of improving our service to meet your specific and detailed requirements. I have long felt that there may be some reluctance on the part of some members of your staff to dispatch messages through Mr. Way to various of our bureaus for detailed and precise information.

In view of these matters I would suggest that our meeting be formalized by holding it as a Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting. There are one or two other matters that I am reluctant to table for an agenda before discussing them informally with you.

These are indeed exciting times for us as I know they are for you and your staff who bear the brunt of reporting to HMG on propaganda developments throughout the world. We are laying on some special service to the American Delegation at Geneva. Additionally, we are vitally concerned with propaganda in preparation for the Geneva Conference, not only from the Soviet world but from Western countries as well. It is at times like these that we feel the superficiality of our coverage of Western Europe. I am certainly not suggesting that we can or should maintain coverage of Western European countries to the extent that we cover the Soviet Orbit but I should like to exchange ideas on this problem with you and your staff.

I shall await further word from you as to if and when you consider a meeting to be desirable and I will appreciate your views on any other matters which we could explore.

Sincerely,

AMW:jmb

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